
Manner: SUICIDE

Suicides are those deaths caused by self-inflicted injuries with evidence of intent to end one's life. Evidence of intent includes an explicit expression, such as a suicide note or verbal threat, or an act constituting implicit intent, such as deliberately placing a gun to one's head or rigging a vehicle's exhaust. In 2002 in King County, there were 200 suicides, accounting for 11.9% (200/1,683) of the deaths investigated by the King County Medical Examiner's Office.

Forty-nine percent (98/200) of the 2002 suicidal deaths resulted from the use of firearms. The number of gunshot suicides (98) in 2002 is an increase from 2001 when there were 85 gunshot suicides. Hanging accounted for 16% (32/200) of suicidal deaths, while jumping from a height accounted for 7.0% (14/200). Drugs and poisons accounted for 11.5% (23/200) of all suicides while carbon monoxide caused death in 8.5% (17/200) of the cases. More information regarding drug caused deaths is presented in the section "Deaths Due to Drugs & Poisons."

Blood alcohol tests were performed in 93% (186/200) of suicidal deaths and were positive in 28% (53/186) of cases tested.

Suicides in the age group sixty years and older, represented 19% (38/200) of all suicides in 2002.

Firearms were the primary method of committing suicide for all age groups, except for those deaths under the age of 19.

In 2002 there were 7 deaths due to drugs and/or poisons by older adults. In 2002, there were no suicides attributed to drugs and/or poisons among youths 19 years and younger.

In 2002 there were 9 suicides among persons 19 years and younger (4.5% of all suicides), which is a decrease compared to 13 suicides among this age group in 2001. Hanging was the primary method of death (67%, 6/9) for suicide among youth 19 years and younger.

Graph 6-1

Suicide Injury Methods in 2002

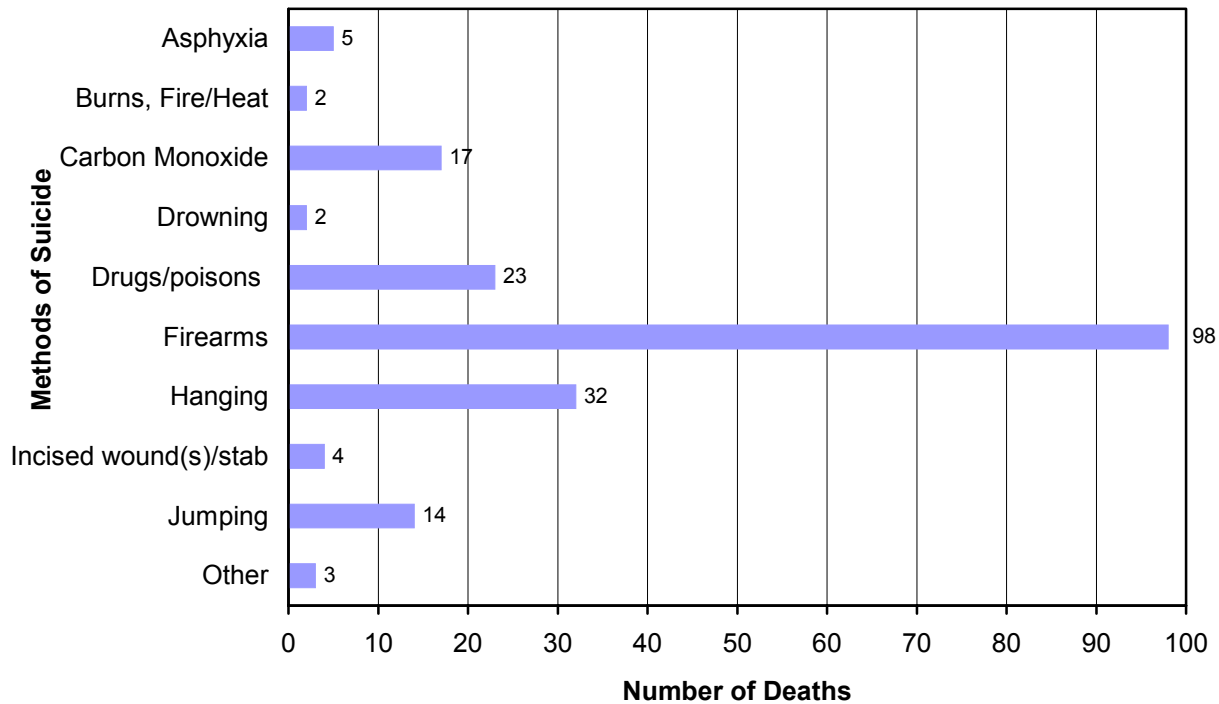


Table 6-1 Suicide Injury Methods and Race of the Decedent

CIRCUMSTANCES / GENDER	RACE					SUB TOTAL	TOTAL
	WHITE	BLACK	ASIAN	NATIVE AMERICAN	OTHER		
Asphyxia	4	0	1	0	0		5
Male	3	0	0	0	0	3	
Female	1	0	1	0	0	2	
Burns, Fire/Heat	2	0	0	0	0		2
Male	1	0	0	0	0	1	
Female	1	0	0	0	0	1	
Carbon Monoxide	17	0	0	0	0		17
Male	10	0	0	0	0	10	
Female	7	0	0	0	0	7	
Drowning	2	0	0	0	0		2
Male	1	0	0	0	0	1	
Female	1	0	0	0	0	1	
Drugs/poisons	19	0	3	0	1		23
Male	10	0	0	0	0	10	
Female	9	0	3	0	1	13	
Firearms	88	2	3	0	5		98
Male	77	2	3	0	4	86	
Female	11	0	0	0	1	12	
Hanging	24	1	6	0	1		32
Male	19	1	5	0	1	26	
Female	5	0	1	0	0	6	
Incised wound(s)/stab	2	1	0	1	0		4
Male	1	1	0	0	0	2	
Female	1	0	0	1	0	2	
Jumping	13	0	1	0	0		14
Male	8	0	1	0	0	9	
Female	5	0	0	0	0	5	
Other	3	0	0	0	0		3
Male	2	0	0	0	0	2	
Female	1	0	0	0	0	1	
Total	174	4	14	1	7		200
Percent	87%	2%	7%	1%	4%		

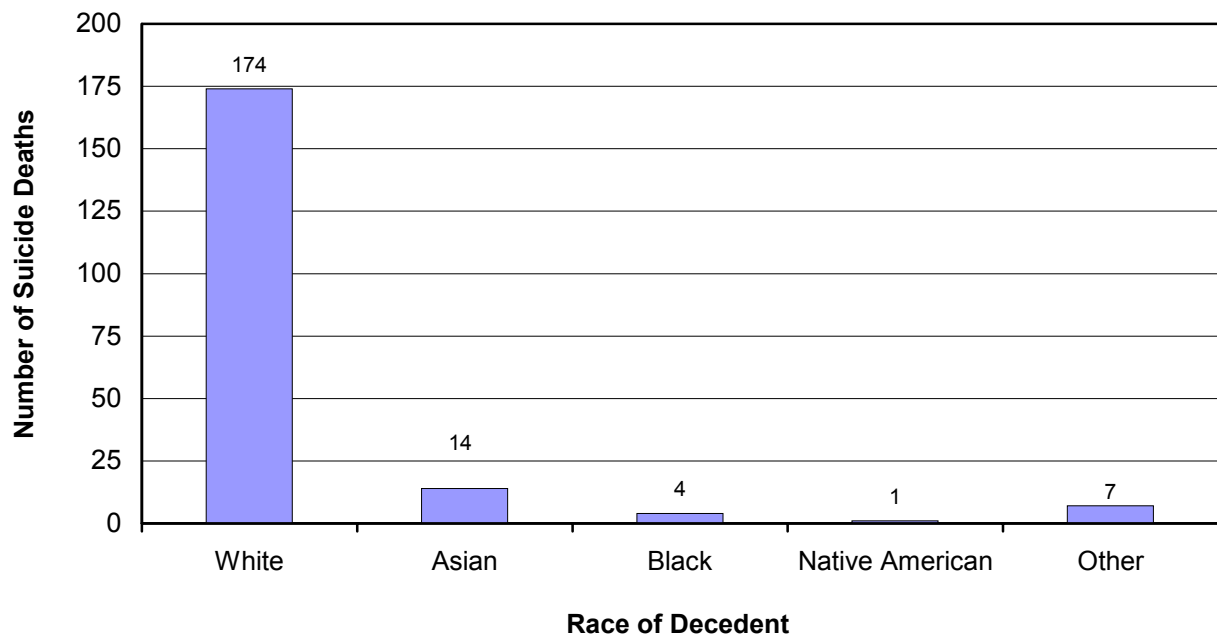
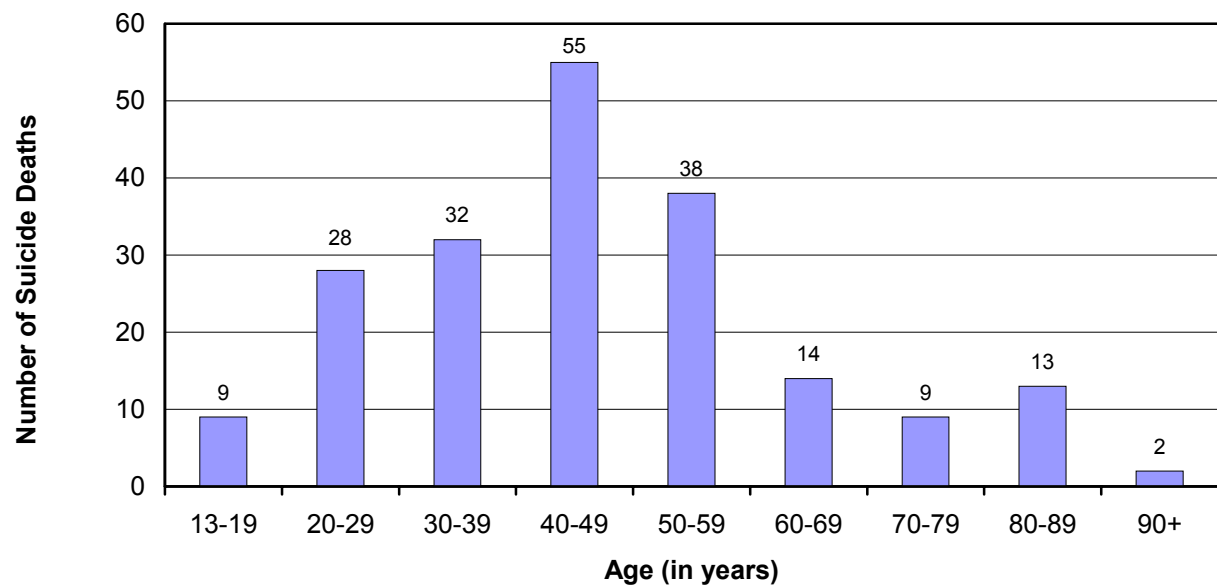
Graph 6-2 Suicidal Deaths and Race of the Decedent**Graph 6-3 Suicidal Deaths and Age Group of the Decedent**

Table 6-2 Suicide Injury Methods and Age Group of the Decedent

INJURY METHOD/ GENDER	AGE GROUP (YEARS)										SUB TOTAL	TOTAL
	13 to 19	20 to 29	30 to 39	40 to 49	50 to 59	60 to 69	70 to 79	80 to 89	90 +			
Asphyxia	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	1	0		5	
Male	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0		3	
Female	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0		2	
Burns, Fire/Heat	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0		2	
Male	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0		1	
Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0		1	
Carbon Monoxide	0	2	3	7	3	1	1	0	0		17	
Male	0	1	2	3	3	1	0	0	0		10	
Female	0	1	1	4	0	0	1	0	0		7	
Drowning	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0		2	
Male	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0		1	
Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0		1	
Drugs/poisons	0	3	4	4	5	3	3	1	0		23	
Male	0	2	2	0	3	1	2	0	0		10	
Female	0	1	2	4	2	2	1	1	0		13	
Firearms	2	12	17	22	22	8	3	10	2		98	
Male	1	12	13	18	19	8	3	10	2		86	
Female	1	0	4	4	3	0	0	0	0		12	
Hanging	6	5	7	10	4	0	0	0	0		32	
Male	6	5	5	7	3	0	0	0	0		26	
Female	0	0	2	3	1	0	0	0	0		6	
Incised wound(s)/stab	0	0	0	1	2	1	0	0	0		4	
Male	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0		2	
Female	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0		2	
Jumping	1	5	0	7	1	0	0	0	0		14	
Male	1	5	0	2	1	0	0	0	0		9	
Female	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0		5	
Other	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0		3	
Male	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0		2	
Female	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0		1	
Total	9	28	32	55	38	14	9	13	2		200	
Percent	5%	14%	16%	28%	19%	7%	5%	7%	1%			

Table 6-3 Suicide Injury Methods and Gender of the Decedent

INJURY METHOD	GENDER		TOTAL
	MALE	FEMALE	
Asphyxia	3	2	5
Burns, Fire/Heat	1	1	2
Carbon Monoxide	10	7	17
Drowning	1	1	2
Drugs/poisons	10	13	23
Firearms	86	12	98
Hanging	26	6	32
Incised wound(s)/stab	2	2	4
Jumping	9	5	14
Other	2	1	3
Total	150	50	200
Percent	75%	25%	

Table 6-4 Suicide Injury Methods and Marital Status of the Decedent

CIRCUMSTANCES / GENDER	MARITAL STATUS					Sub Total	Total
	Single	Married	Divorced	Widowed	Unknown		
Asphyxia	1	0	3	1	0		5
Male	1	0	2	0	0	3	
Female	0	0	1	1	0	2	
Burns, Fire/Heat	0	0	1	1	0		2
Male	0	0	1	0	0	1	
Female	0	0	0	1	0	1	
Carbon Monoxide	3	8	6	0	0		17
Male	2	4	4	0	0	10	
Female	1	4	2	0	0	7	
Drowning	0	0	2	0	0		2
Male	0	0	1	0	0	1	
Female	0	0	1	0	0	1	
Drugs/poisons	6	4	10	3	0		23
Male	4	1	4	1	0	10	
Female	2	3	6	2	0	13	
Firearms	30	34	26	5	3		98
Male	26	28	24	5	3	86	
Female	4	6	2	0	0	12	
Hanging	14	10	8	0	0		32
Male	14	6	6	0	0	26	
Female	0	4	2	0	0	6	
Incised wound(s)/stab	0	2	1	0	1		4
Male	0	1	1	0	0	2	
Female	0	1	0	0	1	2	
Jumping	9	2	3	0	0		14
Male	8	1	0	0	0	9	
Female	1	1	3	0	0	5	
Other	1	2	0	0	0		3
Male	1	1	0	0	0	2	
Female	0	1	0	0	0	1	
Total	64	62	60	10	4		200
Percent	32%	31%	30%	5%	2%		

Table 6-5 Suicide Injury Methods and Blood Alcohol Test Results of the Decedent

METHOD	TESTED		NOT TESTED	TOTAL
	POSITIVE	NEGATIVE		
Asphyxia	2	3	0	5
Burns, Fire/Heat	0	2	0	2
Carbon Monoxide	3	13	1	17
Drowning	0	2	0	2
Drugs/poisons	9	12	2	23
Firearms	26	64	8	98
Hanging	11	21	0	32
Incised wound(s)/stab	0	4	0	4
Jumping	2	10	2	14
Other	0	2	1	3
Total	53	133	14	200
Percent	26.5%	66.5%	7.0%	